

I. AMENDMENTS

A. IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A linear electromagnetic machine comprising:
a movable member;
a stationary member defining at least one stationary pole;
a phase winding positioned such that, when current is flowing in the phase winding, the at least one stationary pole is energized; and
a circuit for energizing the phase winding over a plurality of energization cycles to produce a given force tending to cause linear movement of the movable member with respect to the stationary member, the energizing of the phase winding also producing a normal force tending to cause movement of the movable and stationary members in a direction normal to the desired linear movement;
wherein the normal force profile experienced by the at least one stationary pole over a first energization cycle is different from the normal force profile experienced by the at least one stationary pole over a subsequent energization cycle.

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Sub B, Cnt.